

ALL DAY WITH THE BIRDS.

This is to record the third attempt to find the best day of all the year for the birds in Lorain County, Ohio. Our first all-day horizon was for May 17, 1898, with a list of 102 species; our second, May 8, 1899, 112 species. Two attempts at an all-day horizon were made in 1900, May 5 with a list of 93; May 19 with a list of 100; but these were so far below the previous records that they have not been counted seriously with the others. Besides, Rev. W. L. Dawson and the writer have been the participants in the 1898, 1899 and 1901 records, and these should be compared rather than last year if the work is to be on the same footing.

The greatest drawback to a work of this character is the inability of persons situated as we are to take advantage of the most favorable day. On the contrary, May 9th was decided upon as the day for this piece of work at Christmas time—four months previously—because that was the only time when both could leave our work. But such disappointments serve only to whet our appetites for the years to come. It is the large record on an unfavorable day which furnished the excitement of the chase. But there were other considerations which made the day close at 2.30 P. M., so that the present horizon is scarcely more than half a day long.

We were in the field at 4 A. M., pushing out to the woods which has yielded up so many rare species. A thick fog threw a shroud over everything beyond a hundred feet, saturating the grass and foliage. The season was so backward that none but the soft-wood trees had ventured to put forth leaves, thus affording an unobstructed view into the tree tops. By 7 o'clock the fog had risen into fleecy clouds and the temperature risen from

56 degrees at the start to near 70 degrees. Bird voices filled every cubic centimeter of air, and our spirits and hopes rose accordingly. Just in the edge of the woods an unknown song occupied our attention for full fifteen minutes, until the singer gave us a full view of his yellow body and shining black hood—Hooded Warbler. He is the first of his species for both of us, and an addition to the county list. In another part of the woods we stumbled upon a pair of the rare Golden-winged Warbler, apparently in search of a dwelling place. While we were at breakfast another Golden-wing sang for us from a bush hard by.

At 8 o'clock we left the woods and pushed on for the lake shore and its swamps, picking up several species by the way. While there were surprises in the appearance of some species which we had not reason to expect, there were also disappointments in the absence of many which there was every reason to expect, so that the outcome of the day's work was in considerable doubt. The way some unusual species had of coming out to show themselves at just the right time for us to record them became not simply encouraging but even amusing. No doubt the foggy morning had something to do with that condition.

At the lake shore the American Herring Gull was the only bird to be seen which might not have been found elsewhere; but the swamps graciously yielded a plentiful crop of interesting species. During lunch our list grew amazingly. The birds seemed to focus their attention upon us in spite of ourselves. There can scarcely be a doubt that several more species would have been seen here if there had been time to beat about for an hour or two longer. The field was by no means exhausted when the hour for returning came. But in spite of the limitations the list numbered 109 species for the day's work, falling but three below the best record.

A scrutiny of the appended list will show that of the 109 species but eleven are water birds, and of the eleven only five were seen outside of the distinctively Oberlin fauna. The list includes seven birds of prey, four out of the six woodpeckers, seven flycatchers, but thirteen sparrows, but four of the six swallows, all four vireos, twenty-one warblers, and all but one of the thrushes.

Of the species recorded on May 8, 1899, 20 were not seen this year, and therefore seventeen recorded this year were not seen in 1899. It is interesting to notice that this difference of species lies almost wholly in the unusual species and that the difference in the seasons seems to have little effect. This list is smaller chiefly because less time could be given to the work, not because some of the later migrants had not yet arrived. The species which are common to all three of the years number 88. Starting with this number for a basis one might reasonably expect to record more than a hundred species on any day between the 5th and 20th of May, assuming favorable weather.

In the absence of actual experiment to prove it, one may not be allowed to say that any untried day was a better day for birds than those tried, but judging from appearances and from the appearance of fields and woods on May 18th, I would say that that was the most favorable day of the year. It was not possible for me to prove it, however. The later migrants were just in and the north bound ones which had come earlier were still with us. What the probabilities for the unusual species would have been only actual field work could demonstrate.

It is true that we have exploited this "All Day" May day far more than any other "All Day" of the year, chiefly because there is a certain interest which attaches to the largest horizon, but the reader is not to conclude from this that our attention is focused upon this May day work. The horizon taking continues during the whole year so far as other duties will permit. When sufficient material has been collected it is proposed to tabulate the results of this work with a view to determining the status of the bird population for each week of the migration periods and for each month during which there is little or no change in the bird population. What other deductions may follow from this work time will show.

In the list which follows the species which were common on the 9th have a C following the name. These followed by a number indicate the number of individuals seen during the day :

Pied-billed Grebe, 1.	Am. Crow, c.
Am. Herring Gull.	Bobolink, c.
Am. Bittern, 1.	Cowbird, c.
Green Heron, 1.	Red-winged Blackbird, c.
Virginia Rail, 1.	Meadowlark, c.
Sora, 1.	Orchard Oriole.
Am. Woodcock, 1.	Baltimore Oriole, c.
Solitary Sandpiper, 1.	Rusty Blackbird, 2.
Bartramian Sandpiper, 1.	Bronzed Grackle, 2.
Spotted Sandpiper.	Am. Goldfinch, c.
Killdeer, c.	Vesper Sparrow, c.
Bob-white.	Grasshopper Sparrow.
Mourning Dove, c.	White-crowned Sparrow.
Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2.	White-throated Sparrow.
Red-tailed Hawk, 1.	Chipping Sparrow, c.
Red-shouldered Hawk, 1.	Field Sparrow, c.
Broad-winged Hawk, 1.	Song Sparrow, c.
Am. Sparrow Hawk.	Swamp Sparrow.
Barred Owl, 1.	Towhee.
Screech Owl, 1.	Cardinal.
Belted Kingfisher.	Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1.
Hairy Woodpecker.	Indigo Bunting.
Downy Woodpecker.	Scarlet Tanager, c.
Red-headed Woodpecker, c.	Purple Martin.
Flicker, c.	Barn Swallow, c.
Whippoorwill, 1.	Bank Swallow.
Nighthawk, 1.	Rough-winged Sparrow.
Chimney Swift, c.	Migrant Shrike.
Ruby-throated Humming Bird, 1.	Red-eyed Vireo, c.
Kingbird.	Warbling Vireo, c.
Crested Flycatcher.	Yellow-throated Vireo.
Phoebe.	Blue-headed Vireo.
Wood Pewee.	Black and white Warbler.
Green-crested Flycatcher.	Blue-winged Warbler.
Traill's Flycatcher, 2.	Golden-winged Warbler, 3.
Least Flycatcher.	Nashville Warbler, c.
Prairie Horned Lark.	Tennessee Warbler.
Blue Jay, c.	Orange-crowned Warbler, 3.

Yellow Warbler, c.	Brown Thrasher, c.
Magnolia Warbler.	House Wren, c.
Myrtle Warbler.	Long-billed Marsh Wren.
Cerulean Warbler, c.	Brown Creeper, 1.
Chestnut-sided Warbler.	White-breasted Nuthatch.
Blackburnian Warbler.	Red-breasted Nuthatch.
Palm Warbler, 1.	Tufted Titmouse.
Oven-bird, c.	Chickadee.
Water-Thrush.	Golden-crowned Kinglet.
Louisiana Water-Thrush, 1.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet.
Mourning Warbler, 1.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.
Hooded Warbler, 2.	Wood Thrush, c.
Maryland Yellow-throat, c.	Wilson's Thrush.
Yellow-breasted Chat.	Olive-backed Thrush.
Am. Redstart, c.	Robin, c.
Am. Pipit.	Bluebird.
Catbird, c.	

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The Passing of the Bird.

Much has been written bearing upon the extermination of birds for millinery purposes, the mantle of censure falling upon the plume hunter, "regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Journals with ornithological aspirations, and some with no aspirations at all, have taken up the cudgel with a hard set determination of eliminating the plume hunter, and the sweet young creature who decorates her hat with his ill-gotten gains. The fact, however, is overlooked that Dame Fashion, that fickle old goddess who, from time immemorial, has sat upon her throne of beauty and ruled the world, places the mark for the feminine eye. Until she issues her imperial ukase that the persecution of the bird must cease, it will be painfully in evidence upon the hat, while the plume hunter will ply his "nefarious" calling, unmindful of the ill aimed arrows of his bird-loving enemies.

The large hearted sportsman with a prospective "shoot "